



SAINT PARASKEVI GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH

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Reverend Father Louis Nicholas

March 19, 2020

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I pray you are safe and well. Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus, there has been much confusion and fear. However, throughout our Church's history, even in times of great suffering, we are called by God to continue to live a virtuous life. The greatest of all these Christian virtues is Love, and Christ Himself gives the greatest example of this Love to us.

Christ's greatest act of Love was His suffering and death on the cross. This great act of God's love for us will be commemorated this Sunday, the third Sunday of Great Lent. However, we are now called by our Archbishop to carry a very difficult cross. He has directed all of the faithful to NOT attend church services until further notice.

It is understandable that we may feel upset and even inconvenienced by this new directive. However, it is something we need to do for our neighbor. Please stay home.

Please be obedient to our Archbishop and his pastoral guidance during this difficult and fearful time. We are urging all of you, DO NOT come to church services until we notify you otherwise. The services will be streamed live via the church Facebook page, which you can access through the church website.

This is not an act of fear. It is an act of genuine Christian sacrificial love.

May our Good Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with all of you.

Blessings,

Fr. Lou

"Let the Saints be joyful in glory...let the high praises of God be in their mouths."
Psalm 149:5-6

The holy shrines containing the relics of Saint Paraskevi and Saint Panteleimon